



## West Bountiful City

Strength • Unity • Family

2009

### Mayor's Message

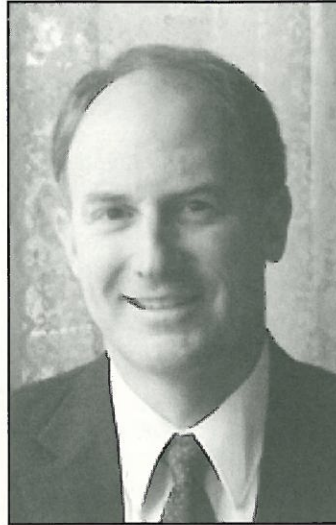
#### A Look Forward Into 2009

By Mayor James Behunin

The year 2008 was good to West Bountiful City. The Legacy Parkway was completed and several new stores opened in our retail district. The Arts Council continued to host wonderful monthly performances, including a theatrical production on the Story of West Bountiful. The Independence Day celebration was well attended, as was Santa's annual trip around town on a fire truck and his visit to city hall. We created a City Beautification Committee that helped many residents clean up their properties. The coming year should also be a great year for West Bountiful City but there are many new challenges. Here is what's in store:

**City Will Get through the Recession without Raising Taxes.** Due to a faltering economy, many Utah cities have been forced to raise property taxes; others have stopped providing some city services. Due to the diligent efforts of our City Council and Staff, West Bountiful City continues to find ways to reduce the cost of government without cutting essential services. As a result, our city should be able to survive a recession without raising property taxes or cutting city services.

**Water System to be Upgraded.** In 2008 the city discovered that its 50 year old water system is worn out. Water line breaks have become a common problem. In response, the city has developed a 20 year plan to replace its outdated water lines and add additional lines to address the city's growing needs. To pay for the



improvements the city council has decided to gradually increase water rates during the next few years and to raise funds through a bond issue. In 2009, the city will build a new water line on the west end of Parrish Lane, and replace old lines on 500 South and 10th North.

**City to Add Parks and Trails.** In 2009, residents should see many new additions to the city's parks and trails. The old Denver Rio Grande right of way will soon be made into a trail for walking, jogging, biking and horse riding. During 2009, the city will redesign the existing

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city park and acquire ground for additional park space along the Legacy Highway.

**City Beautification Will Continue.** In the spring of 2009, the committee will continue to work with certain residents and businesses that need to clean up their properties.

**Threats to Air Quality Will Be Addressed.** The city's effort to encourage Holly Oil to reduce its impact on air quality will start to reap benefits in 2009. Improvements being made to the plant will drastically reduce air pollution. In addition, the Trinity Steel plant, located just across our border with Centerville, has recently hired an engineering firm to help it find ways to reduce emissions from its plant.

## CoGen Plant: To be built or not?

Concerns have been raised in the media regarding a proposed co-generation plant adjacent to the Holly Oil Refinery in West Bountiful. The facility would use the waste bi-products of the oil refining process to fuel what has been described as a "co-generation" power plant.

Approximately one year ago, individuals representing a firm wishing to build the plant presented a set of conceptual drawings to the city staff and mayor and a few members of the city council. We raised a number of concerns about the proposal and have heard nothing since that time. The most serious obstacle they faced in winning approval for their project is that the proposed site is zoned for residential construction. In addition, the city has worked closely with Holly Oil to preserve a buffer zone around the oil refinery. To build a power plant in that buffer zone would raise concerns. Because no formal request for a building permit was submitted, the city never took formal action to approve or deny the proposed project.

More recently, we have heard rumors that the Utah Department of Environmental Quality has granted preliminary approval for the construction of such a plant. In response, certain groups have begun to organize a public campaign against the project. One group of physicians has even predicted that the construction of the plant will increase the number of local deaths due to respiratory illness.

Naturally, our residents are becoming increasingly alarmed by these statements. However, the city still has not received an application for a building permit nor would it seriously consider such an application given the current zoning and the city's requirement for a buffer zone around the oil refinery. For this reason, it is difficult to imagine that such a project could be built in West Bountiful City given the current circumstances.

—By Mayor James Behunin

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor James Behunin	292-5151
Debbie McKean	298-3179
Cheryl Searle	298-7056
James Bruhn	292-7912
Ken Romney	298-3952
Valerie Shaw	294-0069